

California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley

Thursday, March 9, 2006

UC Merced Center

University Square

2000 K Street, Bakersfield, CA 93301

Board Meeting: 9:30 AM – Noon

Local Officials Roundtable: Noon – 2:00 PM

Public Forum for Kern County: 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Summary of the Public Forum Proceedings

As Chair of the Partnership, Secretary Sunne Wright McPeak welcomed attendees to the first of eight public forums to be held by the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley and gave a brief overview of the formation of the Partnership and its activities to date. Deputy co-chairs Supervisor Connie Conway and Fritz Grupe were introduced and talked about the structure of the Partnership and the nine Work Groups. Secretary Mike Chrisman remarked about how people locally could contribute to the work of the Partnership.

After self-introductions of all attendees, the conveners of each Work Group gave one minute reports on the scope of work for their Work Group. The Work Groups are as follows:

Economic Development, Jeff Grover, Convener
Higher Education and Work Force Development, Larry Fortune, Convener
K – 12 Education, Mayor Alan Autry, Convener
Transportation, Ray Dezember, Convener
Land Use, Housing and Agriculture, Supervisor Victor Mow, Convener
Air Quality and Environmental Protection, Sue Benham, Convener
Water Quality, Supply, Reliability and Energy, Paul Boyer, Convener
Health and Human Services, Fritz Grupe, Convener
Telecommunications, Ray Dezember, Convener

The Executive Order and the Scopes of Work for each Work Group are available at www.bth.ca.gov.

Secretary McPeak began the testimony portion of the public hearing by referring to five questions taken directly from the Governor's Executive Order establishing the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley. The questions were provided to those invited to give testimony and available to members of the public upon arrival. The five questions to be discussed are as follows:

- What is your assessment of the adopted Scopes of Work for the Work Groups and to what extent do they reflect the appropriate priorities for action?
- What projects and programs will best utilize public dollars and most quickly improve the economic vitality of the San Joaquin Valley, especially those that leverage federal, state, local and private-sector resources to address critical needs?

- What statutory or regulatory changes would improve the economic well-being of the San Joaquin Valley and improve the quality of life for its residents?
- What are the top 3 priorities for action that will improve the future economic prosperity and quality of life for the San Joaquin Valley?
- How can cooperation and collaboration among San Joaquin Valley public officials and civic leaders best be continued in the future and what would be the most appropriate organizational structure to ensure implementation of the Strategic Action Proposal required by the Governor's Executive Order?

Three panels of local leaders were invited to provide testimony based on the five questions at the forum. Councilwoman Sue Benham introduced the Government Panel. Panel members are as follows:

Ron Brummett, Executive Director, Kern Council of Governments
 Ray Watson, Supervisor and Vice Chair of the Kern County Board of Supervisors
 Alan Krauter, Kern County Chief Administrative Officer
 Larry Reider, Kern County Superintendent of Schools

The panel stressed the need to get the bond issue on the ballot and to focus on transportation, goods movement, water conveyance from the Delta, clean air, affordable housing, funding for health care for indigent people, and expanded career education in schools.

The following individuals gave testimony as the Business Panel:

Patrick Collins, President & CEO, Kern Economic Development Corporation
 Debbie Moreno, President & CEO, The Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce
 Keith Brice, President, Mid State Development Corporation
 Lou Gomez, Executive Director, Kern County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
 Mike Turnipseed, Executive Director, Kern County Taxpayers Association
 David Parker, Executive Vice President, Kern Community Foundation

The business panel covered issues of housing affordability and transportation. The issue of state laws and regulations passed for the benefit of San Francisco and Los Angeles and their affect on Central Valley businesses was presented as an issue and several examples were cited. The lower rate of college attendance, the need for a skilled workforce by providing more vocational education, and the need for enterprise zones and additional revenue for local government were also noted. Those testifying on the Community Panel included the following:

Dr. Bill Andrews, President, Bakersfield College
 Dana Karcher, Tree Foundation of Kern County
 Holly Hart, Smart Growth Coalition
 Steve Sanders, Community Connection for Childcare

The panel commented on the need for more students to aspire to higher educations and learn about career options and opportunities at a younger age, the need to provide financial options for those

who need job training, and to train people to take on leadership positions in the community if the area is to have a voice and resolve the air quality, growth and planning issues that will continue to challenge the Central Valley.

Partnership members and panelists engaged in discussion and questions following each panels presentation.

Public comment was then taken.

Art Unger commented on the inefficiency of the Amtrak service from Bakersfield to northern California.

Randy Radoicich, a farmer from the Madera area, spoke about the importance of agriculture to the region. He was joined by Carla Edwards of the Fresno County Farm Bureau.

Nine flip charts, each representing and labeled for one of the nine Work Groups, were stationed throughout the room. Attendees were invited to write any additional comments on the flip charts for inclusion in the testimony.

Secretary McPeak thanked the University of California, Merced, Bakersfield Center for hosting this forum and all of those who provided testimony and public input at today's public forum. The next forums will be held tomorrow in Visalia and in Hanford on April 6 and Fresno on April 7.

California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley
March 9, 2006
Bakersfield, California

Public Forum Attendees

Board Members Present

Local Elected Officials

Councilwoman Susan Benham, City of Bakersfield
Councilwoman Marcelyn Buford, City of Hanford
Councilman Paul Boyer, City of Farmersville
Supervisor Connie Conway, County of Tulare
Supervisor Gary Gilbert, Madera County
Supervisor Jeff Grover, Stanislaus County
Supervisor Victor Mow, San Joaquin County
Mayor Alan Autry, City of Fresno

Civic Leaders

Fritz Grupe, The Grupe Company, Stockton
Lorraine Salazar, Sal's Mexican Restaurants
Ray Dezember, Bakersfield
Jose Rivera, Kaiser Permanente
Fred Ruiz. Ruiz Foods

Cabinet Secretaries

Mike Chrisman, Secretary, Resources Agency
Sunne Wright McPeak, Secretary, Business, Transportation and Housing Agency
Victoria Bradshaw, Secretary, CA Labor and Workforce Development Agency
Rosario Marin, Secretary, State and Consumer Services

Cabinet Designees

Jamie Fall, Labor and Workforce Development Agency
Ricardo Soto, Office of the Secretary for Education, for Secretary Bersin
Cindy Tuck, California Environmental Protection Agency
Trina Gonzalez, Health & Human Services Agency, for Secretary Belshe
Jonnalee Henderson, Department of Food and Agriculture, for Secretary Kawamura

Board Members Not Present

Mayor Mike Amabile, City of Los Banos
Sheila Carroll, Ross F. Carroll, Inc.
Larry Fortune, Fortune Associates
Coke Hallowell, San Joaquin River Parkway & Conservation Trust
Sharron Thornton, The Grass is Greener Landscape Management
Alan Bersin, Secretary of Education
A. G. Kawamura, Secretary, Department of Food & Agriculture

Designated Officials

Appointed Liaisons

Pete Weber, ANRON International, Fresno, Liaison to the Federal Interagency Task Force
Barry Hibbard, Tejon Ranch Company, Liaison to the Economic Strategy Panel

Other Key Partners

Supporting Agencies

Ashley Swearengin, Executive Director, Central California Futures Institute
Carol Whiteside, Great Valley Center
Carolyn Lott, Great Valley Center
Heidi Arno, Great Valley Center
Mark Keppler, The Maddy Institute, CSU Fresno
Mike Lynch, Great Valley Center
Jim Tischer, Regional Program Manager, Center for Water Technology
Rollie Smith, Operations Specialist, US Department of Housing & Urban Development

Other Guests

Elected Officials

Jon McQuiston, Member, Kern County Board of Supervisors
Ray Watson, Vice Chair, Kern County Board of Supervisors

Community Leaders

Dedre Ahl, Kern and Yolo Workforce Investment Board
Bill Andrews, President, Bakersfield College
Jan Bans, Area Manager, AT&T
David Baunstark, Kern County Water Agency
Linda Beattie, EDD Workforce Investment Division
Jim Beck, Kern County Water Agency
Julie Benevedes-Menzes, Central Valley Office of the Governor
Julia Blanton, CA Dept. of Food and Agriculture
Tammy Brown, Reporter, KUZZ News
Ron Brummett, Executive Director, Kern Council of Governments
Jill Buettner, The Maddy Institute
Laura Catherman, Assistant Director, Bakersfield Center, UC Merced
Sheryl Chalupa, President & CEO, Goodwill Industries
Brett Cooper, Coffee Petroleum
Adela Coronado, Latino Outreach Specialist, FDIC
Rick Davis, Kern County Board of Trade
Paula DeLaRiva, Representative to Assemblywoman Nicole Parra
James Diaz, Employment Program Manager, Kern County
Frank Dominguez, Chairman, Kern County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Diane Duquette, Kern County Library
Betty Erickson, representing Supervisor Barbara Patrick
Kaile Kay Faunds, Fresno County Farm Bureau

Lou Gomez, President & CEO, Kern County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Brent Green, City of Shafter
R. Brent Green, Business Development Director, City of Shafter
Phyllis Grupe, Community Partnership for Families
Holly Hart, Smart Growth Coalition of Kern
Loron Hodge, Realtor, Watson Realty
Thomas Jabusch, San Francisco Estuary Institute
Dana Karcher, Tree Foundation of Kern
Blake Konczal, Director, Fresno County Workforce Investment Board
Allan Krauter, Legislative Analyst, County of Kern Administrative Office
Rikki Leigh, Tulare County Workforce Investment
Verna Lewis, Employers Training Resource
Kyle Loreto, Deputy Chief of Staff, Mayor Alan Autry's Office
John Madrid, Mayor's Education Office, Fresno
Brian McMahon, CA Workforce Investment Board
Jose Millan, Vice Chancellor, CA Community Colleges
Horace Mitchell, President, CSU Bakersfield
Debbie Moreno, President & CEO, Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce
Judy Nevis, Governor Schwarzenegger's Central Valley Office
Brandy Nikaido, University of California Merced
Rich O'Neil, Kern River Parkway Foundation
Harlan Ode, President, Sharp Solar
Linda Ortega, Community Affairs Officer, FDIC
David Parker, Kern Community Foundation
Pete Parra, CA Workforce Investment Board, President of Parra Foundation
Steven Pelz, Housing Authority, Kern County
Ravi Ramalingam, Air Resources Board
Frank Ramirez, Financial Aid Counselor, CSU Bakersfield
Larry Reider, Superintendent of Schools, Kern County
Luke Reynolds, Community Affairs Specialist, FDIC
Jose Rivera, Kaiser Permanente Medical Group Administrator
Norma Rojas-Morra, Housing Authority, Kern County
Darryl Rutherford, Community Development Specialist, CA Coalition for Rural Housing
Paul Saldana, Tulare County Economic Development Corporation
Stephen Sanders, Administrator, Kern County Superintendent of Schools
Steve Schilling, Clinica Sierra Vista
Ryan Schuster, Reporter, Bakersfield Californian
Zack Scrivner, representing Assemblyman McCarthy
Joan Sollenberger, Business, Transportation & Housing Agency
Andrew Souza, City Manager, City of Fresno
Terrie Stoller, Public Relations, Sunridge Nurseries
Katie Tremper, Project Manager, Kern County Superintendent of Schools
Michael Turnispeed, Executive Director, Kern County Taxpayers Association
Arthur Unger, Executive Committee, Kern-Kaweah Chapter of Sierra Club
James Varley, Administrator, Kern County Superintendent of Schools
Al Wagner, representing Senator Dean Florez
Lois Watson, League of Women Voters

Jennifer Wood, Project Director, Lamont School District
Jessica Woody, The Maddy Institute
Ralph Zackheim, Workforce Development Specialist, US Department of Labor
David Zoldoske, Director, CA Water Institute

Public

Debra Burris-Garofalo, Bakersfield
Tom Coom, Bakersfield
Rand Cordray, Bakersfield
Eddie Dominguez, Bakersfield
John Fallgatter, Bakersfield
Vince Fong, Bakersfield
Josh Franco, UC Merced
Guy Greenlee, Bakersfield
Jack Hardisty, Bakersfield
Keith Price, Bakersfield
Marissa Parrinello, UC Merced
Randy Radoicich, Madera
Steve Teglia, Bakersfield
Christina Varner, Bakersfield